

Tok Pisin

Tok Pisin (English: /tɒk ˈpɪsɪn/^[1][2] Tok Pisin /ˌtok pi ˈsin/^[6]) is a creole language spoken throughout Papua New Guinea. It is an official language of Papua New Guinea and the most widely used language in the country. However, in parts of Western, Gulf, Central, Oro Province and Milne Bay Provinces, the use of Tok Pisin has a shorter history, and is less universal, especially among older people. While it likely developed as a trade pidgin, Tok Pisin has become a distinct language in its own right. It is often referred to by Anglophones as "**New Guinea Pidgin**" or "Pidgin English".

Between five and six million people use Tok Pisin to some degree, although not all speak it well. Many now learn it as a first language, in particular the children of parents or grandparents who originally spoke different vernaculars (for example, a mother from Madang and a father from Rabaul). Urban families in particular, and those of police and defence force members, often communicate among themselves in Tok Pisin, either never gaining fluency in a local language (*tok ples*), or learning a local language as a second (or third) language, after Tok Pisin (and possibly English). Perhaps one million people now use Tok Pisin as a primary language. Tok Pisin is "slowly crowding out" other languages of Papua New Guinea.^[7]

Tok Pisin	
<i>Tok Pisin</i>	
Pronunciation	/tɒk ˈpɪsɪn/^[1][2]
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Native speakers	120,000 (2004) ^[3] 4 million L2 speakers (no date)^[4]
Language family	English Creole - Pacific - Melanesian Pidgin Tok Pisin
Writing system	Latin script (Tok Pisin alphabet) Pidgin Braille
Official status	
Official language in	 Papua New Guinea
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	tpi (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=457)
ISO 639-3	tpi
Glottolog	tokp1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/tokp1240) ^[5]
Linguasphere	52-ABB-cc

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Name

Tok is derived from English "talk", but has a wider application, also meaning "word", "speech", or "language". *Pisin* derives from the English word *pidgin*; the latter, in turn, may originate in the word *business*, which is descriptive of the typical development and use of pidgins as inter-ethnic trade languages.

While Tok Pisin's name in the language is *Tok Pisin*, it is also called New Guinea Pidgin^[8] in English. Papua New Guinean anglophones almost invariably refer to Tok Pisin as "Pidgin" when speaking English.^[9] However, professional linguists prefer to use the term *Tok Pisin*, as this is considered a distinct language in its own right.^[10] The language can no longer be considered a pidgin strictly speaking: it is now a first language for numerous people not simply a *lingua franca* to facilitate communication with speakers of other languages, and as such is more rightly called a creole.

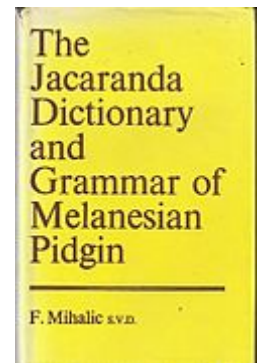
Classification

The Tok Pisin language is a result of Pacific Islanders intermixing, when people speaking numerous different languages were sent to work on plantations in Queensland and various islands (see South Sea Islander and Blackbirding). The labourers began to develop a pidgin, drawing vocabulary primarily from English, but also from German, Malay, Portuguese and their own Austronesian languages (perhaps especially Kuanua, that of the Tolai people of East New Britain).

This English-based pidgin evolved into Tok Pisin in German New Guinea (where the German-based creole Unserdeutsch was also spoken). It became a widely used lingua franca – and language of interaction between rulers and ruled, and among the ruled themselves who did not share a common vernacular. Tok Pisin and the closely related Bislama in Vanuatu and Pijin in the Solomon Islands, which developed in parallel, have traditionally been treated as varieties of a single Melanesian Pidgin English or "Neo-Melanesian" language. The flourishing of the mainly English-based Tok Pisin in German New Guinea (despite the language of the metropolitan power being German) is to be contrasted with Hiri Motu, the lingua franca of Papua, which was derived not from English but from Motu, the vernacular of the indigenous people of the Port Moresby area.

Official status

Along with English and Hiri Motu, Tok Pisin is one of the three official languages of Papua New Guinea. It is frequently the language of debate in the national parliament. Most government documents are produced in English, but public information campaigns are often partially or entirely in Tok Pisin. While English is the main language in the education system, some schools use Tok Pisin in the first three years of elementary education to promote early literacy.



A 1971 reference book on Tok Pisin (then called *Melanesian Pidgin*).



Hotel Room Door Signs in Papua New Guinea

Regional variations

There are considerable variations in vocabulary and grammar in various parts of Papua New Guinea, with distinct dialects in the New Guinea Highlands, the north coast of Papua New Guinea, and islands outside of New Guinea. For example, Pidgin speakers from Finschhafen speak rather quickly and often have difficulty making themselves understood elsewhere. The variant spoken on Bougainville and Buka is moderately distinct from that of New Ireland and East New Britain but is much closer to that than it is to the Pijin spoken in the rest of the Solomon Islands.

Alphabet

The Tok Pisin alphabet contains 22 letters, five of which are vowels, and four digraphs.^[11] The letters are (vowels in bold):

a, b, d, **e**, f, g, h, **i**, j, k, l, m, n, **o**, p, r, s, t, **u**, v, w, y

The four digraphs note diphthongs, as well as certain consonants:

⟨**ai**⟩, ⟨**au**⟩, ⟨**oi**⟩ and ⟨ng⟩ (used for both /ŋ/ and /ŋɡ/)

Phonology

Tok Pisin, like many pidgins and creoles, has a simpler phonology than the superstrate language. It has 17 consonants and 5 vowels.^[6] However, this varies with the local substrate languages and the level of education of the speaker. The following is the "core" phonemic inventory, common to virtually all varieties of Tok Pisin. More educated speakers, and/or those where the substrate language(s) have larger phoneme inventories, may have as many as 10 distinct vowels.

Nasal plus plosive offsets lose the plosive element in Tok Pisin e.g. English *hand* becomes Tok Pisin *han*. Furthermore, voiced plosives become voiceless at the ends of words, so that English *pig* is rendered as *pik* in Tok Pisin.

Consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Coronal</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p b	t d		k g	
<u>Fricative</u>	v	s			h
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n		ŋ	
<u>Lateral</u>		l			
<u>Approximant</u>	w		j		
<u>Rhotic</u>		r			

- Where symbols appear in pairs the one to the left represents a voiceless consonant.
- Voiced plosives are pronounced by many speakers (especially of Melanesian backgrounds) as prenasalized plosives.
- /t/, /d/, and /l/ can be either dental or alveolar consonants, while /n/ is only alveolar.
- In most Tok Pisin dialects, the phoneme /r/ is pronounced as the alveolar tap or flap, [ɾ].

Vowels

Tok Pisin has five vowels, similar to the vowels of Spanish, Japanese, and many other five-vowel languages:

	Front	Back
<u>Close</u>	i	u
<u>Mid</u>	e	o
<u>Open</u>	a	

Grammar

The verb has a suffix, *-im* (from "him") to indicate transitivity (*luk*, look; *lukim*, see). But some verbs, such as *kaikai* "eat", can be transitive without it. Tense is indicated by the separate words *bai* (future) (from "by and by") and *bin* (past) (from "been"). The present progressive tense is indicated by the word *stap* – e.g. "eating" is *kaikai stap* (or this can be seen as having a "food stop").

The noun does not indicate number, though pronouns do.

Adjectives usually take the suffix *-pela* (now often pronounced *-pla*, though more so for pronouns, and *-pela* for adjectives; from "fellow") when modifying nouns; an exception is *liklik* "little".^[12] It is also found on numerals and determiners:

Tok Pisin: "*wanpela*" → English: "one"

Tok Pisin: "*tupela*" → English: "two"

Tok Pisin: "*dispela boi*" → English: "this bloke"

Pronouns show person, number, and clusivity. The paradigm varies depending on the local languages; dual number is common, while the trial is less so. The largest Tok Pisin pronoun inventory is,^[13]

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1st exclusive	mi (I) from "me"	mitupela (he/she and I) from "me two fellow"	mitripela (both of them, and I) from "me three fellow"	mipela (all of them, and I) from "me fellow"
1st inclusive	–	yumitupela (you and I) from "you me two fellow"	yumitripela (both of you, and I) from "you me three fellow"	yumipela or yumi (all of you, and I) from "you me fellow"
2nd	yu (thou) from "you"	yutupela (you two) from "you two fellow"	yutripela (you three) from "you three fellow"	yupela (you four or more) from "you fellow"
3rd	em (he/she/it) from "him"	tupela (they two) from "two fellow"	tripela (they three) from "three fellow"	ol (they four or more) from "all"

Reduplication is very common in Tok Pisin. Sometimes it is used as a method of derivation; sometimes words just have it. Some words are distinguished only by reduplication: *sip* "ship", *sipsip* "sheep".

There are only two proper prepositions: *bilong* (from "belong"), which means "of" or "for", and *long* (from "along"), which means everything else. Tok Pisin: "*Mipela i bin go long blekmarket*". → English: "We went to the black market". Tok Pisin: "*Ki bilong yu*" → English: "your key" Tok Pisin: "*Ol bilong Godons*". → English: "They are from Gordon's". (ibid. 640f). Some phrases are used as prepositions, such as *long namel (bilong)*, "in the middle of".

Several of these features derive from the common grammatical norms of Austronesian languages^[14] – although usually in a simplified form. Other features, such as word order, are however closer to English.

Sentences which have a 3rd person subject often put the word *i* just before the verb. This may or may not be written separate from the verb, occasionally written as a prefix. Although the word is thought to be derived from "he" or "is", it is not itself a pronoun or a verb but a grammatical marker used in particular constructions, e.g., "*Kar i tambu long hia*" is "car forbidden here", i.e., "no parking".

Tense and aspect

Past tense: marked by "*bin*" (from English 'been'): Tok Pisin: "*Na praim minista i bin tok olsem*". English: "And the prime minister spoke thus". (Romaine 1991: 629)

Continuative same tense is expressed through: verb + "*i stap*". Tok Pisin: "*Em i slip i stap*". English: "He/She is sleeping". (ibid.: 631)

Completive or perfective aspect expressed through the word "*pinis*" (from English: finish): Tok Pisin: "*Em i lusim bot pinis*". English: "He had got out of the boat". (Mühlhäusler 1984: 462).

Transitive words are expressed through "*-im*" (from English: him): Tok Pisin: "*Yu pinisim stori nau*." English: "Finish your story now!". (ibid.: 640).

Future is expressed through the word "*bai*" (from English: by and by): Tok Pisin: "*Em bai ol i go long rum*" English: "They will go to their rooms now. (Mühlhäusler 1991: 642).

Development of Tok Pisin

Tok Pisin is a language that developed out of regional dialects of the languages of the local inhabitants and English, brought into the country when English speakers arrived. There were four phases in the development of Tok Pisin that were laid out by Loreto Todd.

1. Casual contact between English speakers and local people developed a marginal pidgin
2. Pidgin English was used between the local people. The language expanded from the users' mother tongue
3. As the interracial contact increased, the vocabulary expanded according to the dominant language.
4. In areas where English was the official language a depidginization occurred (Todd, 1990)

Tok Pisin is also known as a "mixed" language. This means that it consists of characteristics of different languages. Tok Pisin obtained most of its vocabulary from the English language, *i.e.*, English is its lexifier. The origin of the syntax is a matter of debate. Hymes (Hymes 1971b: 5) claims that the syntax is from the substratum languages, *i.e.*, the languages of the local peoples. (Hymes 1971b: 5). Derek Bickerton's analysis of creoles, on the other hand, claims that the syntax of creoles is imposed on the grammarless pidgin by its first native speakers: the children who grow up exposed to only a pidgin rather than a more developed language such as one of the local languages or English. In this analysis, the original syntax of creoles is in some sense the default grammar humans are born with.

Pidgins are less elaborated than non-Pidgin languages. Their typical characteristics found in Tok Pisin are:

1. A smaller vocabulary which leads to metaphors to supply lexical units:
 - Smaller vocabulary:

Tok Pisin: "vot"; English: "election" (n) and "vote" (v)

Tok Pisin: "hevi"; English: "heavy" (adj) and "weight" (n)

■ Metaphors:

Tok Pisin: "skru bilong han" (screw of the arm); English: "elbow"

Tok Pisin: "skru bilong lek" (screw of the leg); English: "knee" (Just "skru" almost always indicates the knee. In liturgical contexts, "brukim skru" is "kneel").

Tok Pisin: "gras bilong het" (grass of the head); English: "hair" (Hall, 1966: 90f) (Most commonly just "gras" – see note on "skru bilong lek" above).

■ Periphrases:

Tok Pisin: "nambawan pikinini bilong misis kwin" (literally "first child of Mrs Queen");
English: Prince Charles.^[15]

2. A reduced grammar: lack of copula, determiners; reduced set of prepositions, and conjunctions
3. Less differentiated phonology: [p] and [f] are not distinguished in Tok Pisin (they are in free variation). The sibilants /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /tʃ/, and /dʒ/ are also not distinguished.

All of the English words "fish", "peach", "feast" or "peace" would have been realised in Tok Pisin as *pis*. In fact the Tok Pisin *pis* means "fish" (and usually has more of a short "i" sound, almost like the English word "piss"). English "piss" was reduplicated to keep it distinct: thus *pis-pis* means "urine" or "to urinate".

Likewise, *sip* in Tok Pisin could have represented English "ship", "jib", "jeep", "sieve" or "chief". In fact it means "ship".

Vocabulary

Many words in the Tok Pisin language are derived from English (with Australian influences), indigenous Melanesian languages and German (part of the country was under German rule until 1919).

- as – *bottom*, *cause*, *beginning* (from "ass"/"arse"). "As ples bilong em" = "his birthplace". "As bilong diwai" = "the stump of a tree".
- bagarap(im) – *broken*, *to break down* (from "bugger up") – (the word is commonly used, with no vulgar undertone, in Tok Pisin and even in Papua New Guinea English).
- bagarap olgeta – *completely broken*
- balus – *bird* or more specifically a pigeon or dove (an Austronesian loan word) - by extension *aeroplane*
- belhat – *angry* (lit. "belly hot")
- belo – *bell* – as in "belo bilong lotu" = "Church bell". By extension *lunch* or *midday break* (from the bell rung to summon diners to the table). A fanciful derivation has been suggested from the "bellows" of horns used by businesses to indicate the beginning of the lunch hour but this seems less likely than the straightforward derivation.
- bensin - *petrol/gasoline* (from German "Benzin")
- bilong wanem? – *why?*
- braun – *brown* (from German "braun")
- buai – "betelnut"

- bubu – *grandparent*, any elderly relation – also *grandchild*. Possibly from Hiri Motu – where it is a familiar form of *tubu*, as in *tubuna* or *tubugu*.
- diwai – *tree, wood, plant, stick* etc.
- gat bel – *pregnant* (lit. "has belly"; pasin bilong givim bel = fertility)
- gras – *hair* (from "grass").
- gut – *good*
- hamamas / amamas – *happy*
- hap – a piece of, as in "hap diwai" = a piece of wood. (from "half").
- hapsait - *the other side* (from "half side")
- hap ret – *purple* (from "half red")
- haus – *house or building* (from German "Haus" meaning "house")
 - hausboi/hausmeri – *a male/female domestic servant* - hausboi (or haus boi) can also mean "servants quarters"
 - haus kaikai — *restaurant* (from "house food")
 - haus moni – *bank* (from "house money")
 - haus sik – *hospital* (from "house sick")
 - haus dok sik – *animal hospital* (from "house dog sick")
 - haus karai – *place of mourning* (from "house cry")
 - sit haus (vulgar) – *toilet* (from "shit house"), also:
 - liklik haus – *toilet*
 - smol haus – *toilet/bathroom* ("small house")
 - haus tambaran – *traditional Sepik-region house* with artifacts of ancestors or for honoring ancestors; *tambaran* means "ancestor spirit" or "ghost"
- hevi – *heavy, problem*. "Em i gat bigpela hevi" = "he has a big problem".
- hukim pis – *to catch fish* (from "hook")
- kaikai – *food, eat, to bite* (Austronesian loan word); also
 - kaikai bilong moningtaim – *breakfast* (from "food belong morning time")
 - kaikai bilong nait – *dinner/supper* (from "food belong night")
- kakaruk – *chicken* (probably onomatopoeic, from the crowing of the rooster)
- kamap – *arrive, become* (from "come up")
- kisim – *get, take* (from "get them")
- lotu – *church, worship* from Fijian, but sometimes sios is used for "church"
- mangi/manki – *small boy*, by extension, *young man* (Probably from the English jocular/affectionate usage "monkey", applied to mischievous children, although a derivation from the German "Männchen", meaning "little man" has also been suggested)
- manmeri – *people* (from "man", *man*, and "meri", *woman*)
- maski – *it doesn't matter, don't worry about it* (Probably from German "macht nichts" = "it doesn't matter")
- maus gras – *moustache* (lit: "mouth grass").
- meri – *woman* (from the English name "Mary"). Also means *female*, e.g., "bulmakau meri" (lit. "bull cow female") = cow.
- olgeta – *all* (from "all together")
- olsem wanem - *what?, what's going on?* (Literally "like what"? Sometimes used as an informal greeting, similar to "what's up?" in English)

- pisin – *bird* (from "pigeon"). The homophony of this word with the name of the language has led to a limited association between the two; Mian speakers, for example, refer to Tok Pisin as "wan weng", literally "bird language".
- pasim – *close, lock* (from "fasten")
- pasim maus – *shut up, be quiet*, i.e. "yu pasim maus" lit: "you close mouth" = "shut up!"
- paul – *wrong, confused*, i.e. "em i paul" = "he is confused" (from English "foul")
- pikinini – *child* (from Pacific Pidgin English, but ultimately from Portuguese influenced Lingua franca, cf. *pickaninny*)
- raskol – *thief, criminal* (from "rascal")
- raus, rausim ("rausim" is the transitive form) – *get out, throw out, remove* (from German "raus" meaning "out")
- rokrok – *frog* (probably onomatopoeic)
- sapos – *if* (from "suppose")
- save – *know, to do habitually* (from Pacific Pidgin English, but ultimately from Portuguese influenced Lingua franca, cf. "savvy")
- sit – *remnant* (from "shit")
- solwara – *ocean* (from "salt water")
- sop – *soap*; also
 - sop bilong tit – *toothpaste* (from "soap belong teeth")
 - sop bilong gras – *shampoo* (from "soap belong hair")
- stap – *be, live, stay* (from "stop")
- susa – *sister*, though nowadays very commonly supplanted by "sista". Some Tok Pisin speakers use "susa" to indicate a sibling of the opposite gender, while a sibling of the same gender as the speaker is a "brata" or "barata".
- susu – *milk, breasts*, from Malay
- tambu – *forbidden*, from "taboo", but also means "in-laws" (mother-in-law, brother-in-law, etc.) and other relatives whom one is forbidden to speak to, or mention the name of, in some PNG customs.
- telefon – *telephone*
- tasol – *but, only* (from "that's all")

Example of Tok Pisin

The Lord's Prayer in Tok Pisin:

*Papa bilong mipela
 Yu stap long heven.
 Nem bilong yu i mas i stap holi.
 Kingdom bilong yu i mas i kam.
 Strongim mipela long bihainim laik bilong
 yu long graun,
 olsem ol i bihainim long heven.
 Givim mipela kaikai inap long tude.
 Pogivim rong bilong mipela,
 olsem mipela i pogivim ol arapela i
 mekim rong long mipela.
 Sambai long mipela long taim bilong
 traim.*

The Lord's Prayer in English:

Our father,
 who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against
 us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil,
 for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
 glory, now and forever.

Na rausim olgeta samting nogut long
mipela.
Kingdom na strong na glori, em i bilong
yu tasol oltaim oltaim.
Tru.

Amen

Notes

1. Laurie Bauer, 2007, *The Linguistics Student's Handbook*, Edinburgh
2. "Tok Pisin | Definition of Tok Pisin in English by Oxford Dictionaries" (https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/tok_pisin). *Oxford Dictionaries | English*. Retrieved 2018-09-24.
3. Tok Pisin (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tpi/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
4. Tok Pisin (https://www.ethnologue.com/15/show_language/tpi) at *Ethnologue* (15th ed., 2005)
5. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tok Pisin" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tokp1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
6. Smith, Geoffrey. 2008. Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea: Phonology (<https://books.google.fr/books?id=zNNCKcMml8MC&lpg=PR1&ots=2NffXxGqgT&dq=&lr&hl=&pg=PA188#v=onepage&q=%22Tok%20Pisin%20in%20Papua%20New%20Guinea:%20Phonology%22&f=false>). In Burridge, Kate, and Bernd Kortmann (eds.), *Varieties of English, Vol.3: The Pacific and Australasia*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. 188-210.
7. A.V. (24 July 2017). "Papua New Guinea's incredible linguistic diversity" (<https://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2017/07/economist-explains-14>). *The Economist*. Retrieved 20 July 2017.
8. E.g. *Nupela Testamen bilong Bikpela Jisas Kraist*, 1969.
9. The published court reports of Papua New Guinea refer to Tok Pisin as "Pidgin": see for example *Schubert v The State* [1979] PNGLR 66.
10. See the *Glottolog* entry for Tok Pisin (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tokp1240>) (itself evidence that the linguistic community considers it a language in its own right, and prefers to name it *Tok Pisin*), as well as numerous references therein.
11. Mundhenk, Norm (1990). "Linguistic Decisions in the Tok Pisin Bible". *Melanesian Pidgin and Tok Pisin: Proceedings of the First International Conference on Pidgins and Creoles in Melanesia*: 372.
12. *Liklik* can also be used as an **adverb** meaning "slightly", as in *dispela bikpela liklik ston*, "this slightly big stone".
13. Verhaar, John W.M. (1995). *Toward a reference grammar of Tok Pisin : an experiment in corpus linguistics*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. p. 354. ISBN 9780824816728.
14. The language **Tolai** is **often named** as having had an important influence on early Tok Pisin.
15. "Prince of Wales, 'nambawan pikinini', visits Papua New Guinea" (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/prince-charles/9654071/Prince-of-Wales-nambawan-pikinini-visits-Papua-New-Guinea.html>). *The Telegraph*. 4 November 2013.

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c/5354671).

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Further reading

- *Throwim Way Leg* by Tim Flannery

External links

- Tok Pisin Translation, Resources, and Discussion (<http://www.tok-pisin.com/>) Offers Tok Pisin translator, vocabulary, and discussion groups.
- Tok Pisin (New Guinea Pidgin) English Bilingual Dictionary (<https://www.tokpinis.info>)
- Tok Pisin phrasebook on Wikivoyage
- A bibliography of Tok Pisin dictionaries, phrase books and study guides (<http://THSlone.tripod.com/MPEB.html#tokpinis>)
- Revising the Mihalic Project (<http://www.mihalicdictionary.org/>), a collaborative internet project to revise and update Fr. Frank Mihalic's *Grammar and Dictionary of Neo-Melanesian*. An illustrated online dictionary of Tok Pisin.
- Tok Pisin background, vocabulary, sounds, and grammar (<http://hawaii.edu/satocenter/langnet/definitions/tokpinis.html>), by Jeff Siegel
- Radio Australia Tok Pisin service (<http://www.abc.net.au/ra/tokpinis/>)
- Tok Pisin Radio on Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCau_6QfTRE_VFd0lZVgjZmA)
- Buk Baibel long Tok Pisin (The Bible in Tok Pisin) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120126125709/http://www.bible.is/toc?version=TPIPNG&language=Tok+Pisin>)
- Eukarist (http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/PNG/tok_pisin_hc.html) Anglican liturgy of Holy Communion in Tok Pisin
- Pidgin/English Dictionary (<http://www.june29.com/HLP/lang/pidgin.html>) as spoken in Port Moresby compiled by Terry D. Barhost and Sylvia O'Dell-Barhost.
- *Tokpinis Grammar Workbook for English Speakers. A Practical Approach to Learning the Sentence Structure of Melanesian Pidgin (or Tokpinis)*. (<http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED401761.pdf>)
- Robert Eklund's Tok Pisin Page (<http://roberteklund.info/PNG-TokPisin.htm>) – with recorded dialogs, children's ditties and a hymn (alternative address (<http://www.ida.liu.se/~g-robek/PNG-TokPisin.htm>))
- Tok Pisin Swadesh List (https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_tpi_swadesh-1) by Rosetta Project

- Audio and video recordings of a Tok Pisin event. Traditional "house cry"/"kisim sori na kam" ceremony for big man Paul Ine (<https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/36676>). Archived with Kaipuleohone
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